Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Franics Winkler has devoted his life to the betterment of his community, the caring and sharing with family and friends and the day-to-day giving and loving which make South Dakota a great state in which to live and work; and,

Whereas, Francis attended grade school in rural Sully County and spent his childhood growing up on a farm east of Onida farming and participating in the Korkow Rodeo; and,

Whereas, Francis Winkler was a dedicated employee of the city of Pierre for nearly 39 years. For 20 of those years, he served as Superintendent of the Water Department and retired in December 1996; and,

Whereas, Francis was initiated into the Masonary on May 3, 1967, and has spent 38 years promoting Masonary to his fullest capability. After joining the Onida Lodge in 1967, he held all offices and has been the secretary for 30 continuous years. Francis also became the Worshipful Master in 1973.

Whereas, Francis' commitment to the Masons has gone beyond the call of duty. He has held numerous Grand Lodge offices and became involved in the Yelduz Oahe Shrine Club serving in many positions of leadership. His desire to obtain medical assistance for children was instrumental in acquiring the Shrine Orthopedic Screening and Off-Premise Clinics in Pierre. Francis and his wife, Betty, are well known in South Dakota and other states for their team approach of promoting Masonary; and,

Whereas, Francis' contributions on behalf of the Masons were recognized in his receipt of the Meritorious Certificate in Recognition of Distinguished Services and Personnel Contributions of Time and Effort to Masonic Ideals in 1985; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to recognize this special life of a South Dakotan who has devoted so much to the welfare of this great state:

***NOW, THEREFORE*, I, M. Michael Rounds**, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 1, 2005, as

FRANCIS WINKLER DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his friends and family for his exceptional leadership and community service.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirtieth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State